

# Newsletter

Bringing you the latest business news from Brentwood

**DECEMBER 2024** 

#### Congratulations to the 2024 Brentwood Business Awards Winners!

We enjoyed another successful Brentwood Business Awards Ceremony last month celebrating the best of local business. Congratulations to all our winners but especially to the <a href="https://example.com/html/>
The Treehouse Club">The Treehouse Club</a> for winning the overall Business of the Year Award!



























### Consider Sponsoring or Applying for a 2025 Brentwood Business Award

#### Sponsoring:

Category Sponsorship package includes your logo appearing on the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce website, 2 x complimentary tickets to the awards ceremony, your representative presenting your category's award at the ceremony, your logo on your category's marketing material and awards evening slide(s), full page advert in the printed event program, promotion of your sponsorship on the Chamber's social media channels and email marketing database, promotion on PhoenixFM and your banners can be displayed at the Awards Ceremony, Chamber AGM and the Summer Barbecue.

#### **Applying:**

The Brentwood Business Awards are open to individuals, companies and organisations of all sizes and sectors as long as they are based in, or doing business in the Borough of Brentwood. Applicants are invited to enter a maximum of two categories and the winners are decided by each of the independent category sponsors. Consider the impact that placing the phrase 'award winning' could have on your PR and marketing efforts. Entering the Awards forces you to reflect on your successes and achievements. It can also give you new ideas. The applications have been designed in a simple format so they don't take too long to complete. Awards can help you benchmark your business against your peers both locally and nationally. Entering is free so you have nothing to lose. Just being shortlisted for the final is a remarkable achievement and it could lead to local success and recognition. As a shortlisted finalist you are offered a free place to attend the awards, which is always a fantastic evening.

Amy from Smiths Grooming won the Best Sole Trader Award and said, "Winning an award was huge for me and my small business. I have already gained over 10 new customers from this and I have gained so much confidence and self worth too. It's encouraged me to grow my business and I have just put a deposit down for a bigger unit and will look into hiring staff. If I am capable of this then anyone is and I recommend any small business who wouldn't even think they would stand a chance to enter."

FIND OUT MORE



#### Christmas Lunch Tuesday 17th December



Join us for an afternoon of networking opportunities in a relaxed environment around a traditional Christmas Lunch. At last year's Christmas lunch many of you will remember enjoying delicious food and singing the 12 Days of Christmas led by our sponsors, <a href="Tees">Tees</a>. This year's Lunch will again be at Warley Park Golf Club, on Tuesday 17th December and will again be sponsored by <a href="Tees">Tees</a>. If you run a small business, why not make this your main Christmas celebration.

Our guest speaker is Mike Porter who is a Radio Presenter and Voice Over Artist. He should have some interesting tales to tell

Tickets are now on sale to members and non-members. Full price tickets are £45. We are also taking whole table bookings for tables of between 8 and 12 people at a discounted price of £37. If you would like to book a whole table please email us at office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk.

**BOOK SINGLE TICKETS** 

## Brentwood School and the Chamber Join Forces

Brentwood School contacted the Chamber asking for a speaker on Social Entrepreneurship. Our own Executive Committee member, Paul Mason-Hughes from New City College took up this task and said "It was a pleasure to be guest speaker on behalf of Brentwood Chamber.

Students studying Business had been tasked with finding out more about social entrepreneurship and I spoke with them mostly around my experience of delivering welfare to work and job related skills programmes at Havering College and New City College. The students had lots of ideas and were keen to hear about how business can do good for communities, the environment and the economy while still contributing financially."

We hope that this will be the first of wider interactions with local schools, engaging young people in business and building their entrepreneurial skills.



Paul Mason-Hughes speaking at Brentwood School on Social Entrepreneurship

### Member's News

### Attract & Engage Made in Essex: The Podcast



If you're seeking practical advice, inspiration and a behindthe-scenes look at Essex's business leaders, this podcast is full of actionable takeaways for anyone looking to grow and lead a successful company.

In this month's episode, Jill Willis from Attract & Engage talks to Miles Adcock, CEO of Concurrent Technologies. Learn how Miles navigated the challenges of leading an innovative business in a highly competitive market and how he's built resilient teams.

LISTEN TO THIS PODCAST

#### Welcome to Our New Members

#### **Green Tornado**

Green Tornado helps businesses get noticed online. They design websites that look good, are easy to use, and work well on any device.



They also offer Search Engine Optimisation Services (SEO) to make sure these websites appear at the top of search results when people in the local area look for related services. In a nutshell, they make it easier for companies to be found online by customers.

#### Ink Digital

Ink Digital is a leading digital marketing and SEO agency based in Brentwood, committed to delivering tailored,



data-driven strategies that drive business growth. With a focus on transparency and collaboration, they help clients maximise their online presence with their expert guidance and best-in-class performance marketing.

#### Ink Digital Has Moved into Brentwood



Award-winning Essex digital marketing and SEO agency, Ink Digital, has expanded into new offices in Brentwood following a period of significant growth. Founded in 2019, the agency has moved from its previous Romford location to a 657-square-foot office near Brentwood Station to accommodate rising client demand and a 58% increase in staff over the past year.

Ink Digital offers a range of services, including SEO, PPC, paid social, and website development, for clients across Essex and the UK, such as Ocean Holidays and IMO Car Wash. CEO Michael Ryan describes the move as "a significant milestone in our journey. Our growth is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team and the trust our clients place in us." The move has positioned the agency for even greater success in Brentwood's thriving business community.

#### Brentwood Connected brings Christmas Home



#### Shenfield Sunday 1st December

Christmas comes to Shenfield on Sunday 1 December with 'Festive Shenfield' from 12-6pm, a free event from Brentwood Connected. Hutton Road will be taken over by festive activities including entertainment and walkabout acts. There will be live music performances hosted in and around Shenfield businesses, with food and drink available from the wide range of businesses on Hutton Road.

#### Ingatestone Sunday 8th December

The Ingatestone Christmas Market takes place on Sunday 8 December from 12-6pm. This popular free event returns to Ingatestone Community Centre with over 50 outdoor market stalls selling food, gifts and a wide selection of festive and handmade items. There will be a community stage with live music performances throughout the day, as well as an indoor market with stalls from community groups and a Santa's grotto.

MORE INFORMATION

#### **Sponsorship Opportunity**

We have sponsorship opportunities available for our Business Breakfasts. These events are held at Marygreen Manor Hotel on the second Wednesday of each month, with informal networking from 7:30am - 8am followed by breakfast and structured networking from 8am - 9am.

Our Sponsorship Package costs £100 and includes:

- Short introduction at the previous month's Breakfast
- 2 free places
- Ten-minute introduction and presentation slot
- Opportunity to display publicity
- Publicity in the previous month's Chamber of Commerce newsletter
- Publicity on the Chamber of Commerce website

For more information or to reserve your month, contact the Chamber office – office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

#### Meet the Members

Meet the Members is a simple and effective approach to networking, with the unique attraction being that each event is hosted by a different member at their business premises.

It is an opportunity for a member to showcase their business and of course for other members to get ideas and inspiration by seeing how other businesses are run.

Another positive aspect is that there is no charge to either host an event or to attend one. All we suggest is that the host supplies some light refreshments.

Recent Meet the Members events have been hosted by a wide variety of members, including Nuffield Health, Blue Serif, DiemX and Reach Hippotherapy.

The events are normally held from 6pm till 8pm on a weekday evening, and we are flexible on dates. If you are interested in hosting an event or would like to hear more about what is involved please let us know.

office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

#### Invoices for 2025

As you will know, we are a membership organization, and rely on members' subscriptions to fund our activities for the benefit of Brentwood businesses.

Invoices for your 2025 membership will be sent out in December. Unfortunately, because of inflation over the past two years, we have had to make a slight increase in our rates for 2025. However our subscription rates still remain low compared to other Chambers of Commerce, and offer excellent value for money.

#### **New Chamber Members Welcome**

If you are a local business and have not yet been to a Chamber of Commerce event, you are very welcome to come along to take advantage of the Chamber's programme. To find out more visit the website at <a href="mailto:brentwoodchamber.co.uk">brentwoodchamber.co.uk</a>. If you would like to join the Chamber email us at: office@BrentwoodChamber.co.uk

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Upcoming Chamber Events		
11 December Wednesday	Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel Sponsored by Green Tornado	BOOK HERE
17 December Tuesday	Christmas Lunch Sponsored by Tees Warley Park Golf Club	BOOK HERE
8 January Wednesday	Business Breakfast at Marygreen Manor Hotel Sponsorship Available	BOOK HERE
22 January Wednesday	Speed Networking Old Brentwoods Club	BOOK SOON
Upcoming Member's Events		
1 December Sunday	Festive Shenfield Brentwood Connected	MORE INFORMATION
8 December Sunday	Ingatestone Christmas Market Brentwood Connected	MORE INFORMATION
11 December Wednesday	Christmas Market RCH Care Homes, Brentwood Care Center	EMAIL HERE

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